Place of Urdu in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1076. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the place of Urdu in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as it is a second or Third language in most of the States and therefore liable to be neglected by the State authorities;

(b) what special steps have been taken to see that Urdu is given its due place in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(c) whether any literature and books have been prepared for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) As per Article 350A of the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of every State and of every local authority to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mothertongue at primary stage of education for children belonging to linguistic minority group. States can seek Central Assistance under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for appropriate activities in pursuance of the above provision.

(b) State Governments have been requested to give due priority to opening of Urdu medium Elementary Schools to the extent necessary as per State norms, from the assistance sanctioned under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

(c) and (d) Textbooks and other material for Elementary Schools are developed by State agencies in languages spoken in respective States.

Autonomy to professional institutions

1077. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had come out with a detailed policy on entrance tests for admission to the technical courses in the professional institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;